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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,270	09/18/2001	Christopher J. Chevallier	703.019US3	8702

7590 10/16/2002

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EXAMINER

WOJCIECHOWICZ, EDWARD JOSEPH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2815

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2503

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

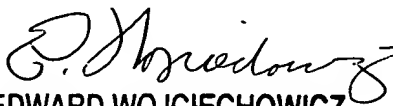
2. Claims 22-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The exact method by which the input voltage is reduced is not clearly defined in the claims. For example, in claim 1, is applicant claiming that all transistors which have their output coupled to the well inherently produce a voltage reduced by the threshold of the transistor? Since this is the only structural relationship, or method feature identified in the claim, it is unclear as to where the inventive concept actually resides. Similarly, in claim 27, the only structural feature or method feature recited is that the input voltage is applied to both the first source/drain and the gate. Is it applicant's assertion that this feature alone is responsible for the claimed voltage reduction?

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The same question arises with respect to each of the other independent claims, which also fail to clearly define the invention. For example, in claim 30, it is not clear what structure, or circuit arrangement actually produces the voltage reduction. Will any transistor which is coupled in any way between an input voltage and a circuit produce a voltage reduction if the well is also coupled in any possible way to the circuit?

In claim 41, the wording of the claim appears to be garbled.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Wojciechowicz, whose telephone number is (703) 308-4898, or to SPE Eddie Lee, whose number is 703-308-1690.


EDWARD WOJCIECHOWICZ
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September 29, 2002